



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 9, 2018

To: School Committee
Re: Response to Letter from Beal Reuse Committee

The School Committee received a letter, dated February 20, 2018, from Mr. Maurice DePalo, Chair of the Beal Reuse Committee, which is charged with determining the best use of the parcel at 1 Maple Avenue on which the current Beal building sits, should a new Beal School be built elsewhere and should the School Committee choose, at that time, to stop utilizing the current Beal for School Department needs. The letter requests “feedback from the School Committee to see if the School Department has any interest in utilizing the existing Beal building for purposes of the Town before (the Reuse Committee) proceeds.” This feedback is requested to be submitted by March 20, 2018.

In keeping with the “Statement of Interest” submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority requesting assistance with a building project to address the district’s space needs, which indicated that the Beal building was coming to the end of its useful life as a functional school, I believe that the School Department should discontinue the use of the current Beal School if and when a new Beal school comes online. Therefore, I advise that the School Committee vote that the School Committee Chair, Dr. Magee, send a response to the Beal Reuse Committee that indicates the following:

- 1) Because of the age and condition of the current Beal building, the School Committee’s intention is to cease the School Department’s utilization of the building and parcel for its purposes if and when it is no longer needed due to the successful construction of a new Beal School.
- 2) The current School Committee also recognizes that at such time the Beal building at 1 Maple Avenue is no longer needed for its current purpose, a future School Committee would have the authority to formally vote to close the school and vote to relinquish control of the property, and that the current School Committee cannot and should not bind a future School Committee regarding these decisions, which must consider the school district’s situation at that time.

I will be happy to discuss this further and answer any questions the Committee may have at its meeting on March 14.